

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 L-01 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-02 EURE-00

DRC-01 /048 W

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P R 171616Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0540

INFO USIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4792

E.O. 11062: GDS

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN PROPOSAL TO SPEED UP RENEGOTIATION OF US-GOR

CULTURAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT - TACTICS

REF: BUCHAREST 4775

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, OUR ANALYSIS OF ROMANIAN DRAFT HAS REVEALED MORE COMPLICATIONS THAN INITIALLY FORESEEN. NEVERTHELESS, WE REMAIN READY TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES. WE ARE IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE HERE TO START NEGOTIATIONS: OUR RE-DRAFTING IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AND WE HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF THE OBJECTIVES WE WOULD SEEK SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO OPEN TALKS IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOWEVER WE SHOULD ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE AN AGREEMENT IN TIME FOR SIGNATURE BY THE SECRETARY. IF WE WERE UNABLE TO NEGOTIATE A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT, WE WOULD WISH TO HAVE OPTION TO SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR NOT RUSHING INTO NEGOTIATIONS AS GOR HAS NOW REQUESTED, BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS OBSTACLES IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM. DESPITE ALL OUR EFFORTS AND A CONTINUING FLOW OF
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ROMANIAN PROMISES, GOR PERFORMANCE IN RECENT WEEKS REMAINS AT

BEST DISAPPOINTING.

3. IN ADDITION WE SHOULD NOT APPEAR EAGER TO RESPOND TO THE ROMANIAN PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT "UMBRELLA AGREEMENT" WHICH LEAVES THE DETAILS FOR ANOTHER TIME. WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD INSIST THAT BOTH AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS BE NEGOTIATED AT THE SAME TIME, SO WE KNOW FOR SURE WHAT WE ARE GETTING.

4. WE RECOMMEND THEREFORE NOT ACCEPTING GOR PROPOSAL. IN REPLYING, WE SHOULD REMIND GOR OF RECENT PROBLEMS RELATING TO EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND STRESS NEED FOR BOTH PARTIES TO DEVELOP PROVISIONS IN NEW AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING ANNEXES WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE SUCH DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT FOR OUR PART, AT LEAST, SUCH PREPARATIONS WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME THAN IS AVAILABLE UNDER GOR PROPOSAL. WE COULD ALSO ADD THAT IN ABSENCE ANY PREVIOUS NOTICE BY GOR OF ITS INTEREST IN ADVANCING DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED TO US DEL HAVE UNDERTAKEN OTHER COMMITMENTS DURING LATTER PART OF OCTOBER.

5. IN LAST ANALYSIS, HWATEVER DEPARTMENT DECIDES ON THIS MATTER OUGHT TO BE COMMUNICATED TO GOR FORTHWITH SINCE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF EITHER PARTY TO LEAVE ISSUE PENDING BEYOND EARLY NEXT WEEK.

6. COMMENTS RE ROMANIAN DRAFT TEXT FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
BARNES

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